NO SMOKING ALLOWED

W. J. QUINLAN

Built: March-August, 1904

Placed In Service: Aug. 25, 1904

Construction: Built at Kahlke Bros. Boat Yard, Rock Island, of Douglas fir.

Size: 112 feet long, and 40 feet wide at the beam, drawing three feet of water.

Cost: $15,000.

Power: Steam, twin boilers, driving two 14-inch cylinders with five-foot strokes connecting direct-acting pitman arms to stern paddlewheels. Always coal-fired.

Capacity: Licensed to carry 500 passengers, but in its early days also carried teams and some freight.

Fare: Always five cents.

Background: Originally, the boat was named the Davenport, and at the time was owned by the Davenport-Rock Island Ferry Co. In 1925, the boat was purchased by W. J. Quinlan and named for him. The boat's hey-day was reached in the 1930s and early 1940s when it served not only as a ferry boat, but as a floating bingo parlor and slot machine palace. Dances were held nightly on the upper deck.

Death: In 1945, the boat was condemned as unsafe by the Coast Guard. It remained in drydock, slowly decaying, until it was destroyed by flames on the night of April 8, 1967. Cause of fire was blamed on vandals.

ABOVE: The dance floor of the W.J. QUINLAN looking forward.

No. WRH 13

RIVER HULL PO

1942

THE

FIREMAN'S UND

INSURANCE COMPANY

OF

SAN FRANCISCO

W. H. CLEAVELAND AGENCY

INSURANCE

FRED KAHLKE D/B/A K. LEE B...

SHIPYARD

VESSEL

FERRYBOAT "W. J. QUINLAN"

Valuation, - - $ 21000.

Limit of Insurance, $ 4,000.

Amount Insured, $ 2,000.

Rate 2-1/2 per cent.

Premium, - - - - - - - $ 50.00

Commenced August 9th, 19 48

Expires August 9th, 19 49

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BELOW: The W.J. QUINLAN abandoned at Kahlke Boatyard, Rock Island, IL circa 1966, shortly before she burned.

W.J. QUINLAN